





ruined because France chooses to carry on a desultory and ineffective warfare in order to save the pockets of the French taxpayers. England, America and perhaps Germany have larger trade interests in China than France, and if the Government at Paris has a quarrel with the one at Peking, it is clearly the duty of the French to make reasonable sacrifices in order that the dispute may be settled with as little injury to the interests of neutral Powers as possible. Some persons seem to imagine that it is the duty of France to declare war against China, and that a better state of affairs would prevail if this were done. This is a mistake. If either nation labours under an unfair disadvantage through the other not declaring war, the nation thus placed at a disadvantage may at once remedy this state of affairs by declaring war on her own account. Practically no doubt, a formal declaration of war would result in trade being more hampered than it is at the present time, while it is not easy to see how either of the belligerents would be benefited by it. It is true that French men-of-war would not be able to make such free use of Hongkong harbour as they do at present, but, on the other hand, the import of munitions and appliances of war into China, and the employment of foreigners in the Chinese military and naval services, would be made breaches of the laws of neutrality. A declaration of war need not also be followed by increased activity on the part of the belligerents.

Any Chinese naval operations for the relief of Formosa are likely to end in smoke, or disaster to the native vessels engaged in them. The Chinese can do nothing against the French ironclads and fast cruisers, excepting perhaps to draw an attack upon Port Arthur, or the other places of refuge for the Chinese men-of-war. It is in Tonquin only that the Chinese can hope to operate against the French with the slightest chance of success. Certain telegrams in the American papers indicate that the French themselves intend to assume the offensive in that direction, and that, instead of a march upon Peking, the occupation of Canton will be attempted. There is one special reason for such an operation. It could be carried out with far less additional troops than would be required for a march upon Peking. If a French army were landed in the north, it would still be necessary for another force of say 20,000 men to remain in Tonquin to guard the borders against heavy invading armies of the Chinese. On the other hand, the French army now in Tonquin could be largely utilized for an advance over the borders into any one of the southern provinces. It would drive back the Chinese forces as it advanced. For an invasion of the southern provinces, reinforcements of say 25,000 men would probably be sufficient, but for a march upon Peking double that number of additional troops would be required. The fatal draw-back to a campaign in the south is that it might utterly fail to bring the Chinese Government to terms. Unless it is speedily undertaken it will also have to be postponed for another year; in fact beyond the occupation of Formosa and possibly the bombardment of some more Chinese sea defences, the French are now hardly in a position to undertake any extensive measures for bringing the Chinese Government to terms until the rivers re-open in the north. It is almost too late now to think about sending out troops for an advance into the southern provinces—perhaps to Canton.

#### TELEGRAMS

LONDON, Nov. 28.—The Chamber of Deputies has approved of a vote of credit for 45,000,000 francs, for operations in Tonquin, by a large majority. M. Ferry declared that France would occupy Formosa permanently, unless the indemnity is paid.

#### LOCAL AND GENERAL

PASSED CANAL.—Macau, Nov. 10.

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DOCK MOVEMENTS.—The *Grosvenor* went to Kowloon Dock to-day.

The *Ching Hock Kuei* went to Kowloon Dock to-day.

The *Bonny* went to Kowloon Dock to-day.

The next Manila Race Meeting has been fixed for the 29th, 30th, and 31st January, 1885.

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On the 24th instant, the Director of the Manila Observatory announced:—There are signs of a distant typhoon to the N.E. of Luzon.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. informed us that the S. S. *Wing-ning*, from Calcutta, left Singapore for this port to-day, the 26th instant.

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The French gunboat *Luz*, which arrived here yesterday, in, we believe, shortly previous to Tonquin. The other French man-of-war in port are here for the purpose of being repaired.

We have received a portion of part 5 of Mr. Ferguson's valuable manual of international law. It is to be hoped the work will be completed before the end of the year. Just now is a most opportune time for publishing it.

The auction of the furniture at the "Star Hotel" commenced at 11 o'clock this morning. Mr. Lammett disposing of it in a little more than an hour. The bar-sittings, lease and good-will were then put up, but there was no bidder. The upset price was \$1,000.

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A CORRESPONDENT writes to us from Shanghai, under date of the 21st November:—We are likely to have a stirring time during the winter. The best of the Chinese man-of-war are preparing for an attempt to afford relief to their countrymen in Formosa. The raising of funds is also under consideration, and the expulsion of all foreigners from the interior has been talked of, but there will be difficulties in the way of carrying out that desire. A large band of defeated and unpaid "braves" appear to have deserted from the Chinese army in Tonquin, and worked their way across the provinces of Yunnan and Kwang-Si into Kuei-Chou, whence they are said to be marching on to Chung-Ching, our only port in Sch-Chuan. These military marauders are destroying all Christian chapels and mission houses, as well as the private houses of any poor Christians they happen to discover.

A San Francisco paper states that there were 500 cases of cartridges shipped by John A. Anthony on the steamer *City of Peking* on her last trip, and consigned to Schmidt & Co., Shanghai. Shipments were also made to the same house through Williams, Dimond & Co. of 84 cases of rifles, 10 cases of bayonets and 2 cases of sabers. The whole are valued at \$26,500.

ADVISORS received from the East, says the San Francisco Chronicle, state that the owners of the steamer *San Pablo* (the Central Pacific Railroad Company) are so well pleased with the speed and ability of that vessel that the plans are already drawn for two ships, of 7000 tons each, for the Company's service between this port and China, to replace the chartered English boats now in use. The Cramps, who built the *San Pablo*, are to get the contract.

Sioux Vista is now able to announce definitely the date of his next concert. It will take on the evening of Tuesday, 9th November. Among the items on the programme, which has not yet been arranged, will be a performance by three ladies on one piano, a trio for the violin, violoncello, and piano, and two vocal sextettes. These should be enough in themselves to draw a good audience.

A CRICKET match was played to-day between an Eleven of the Hongkong Cricket Club and fourteen Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Buffs and Royal Artillery. The Eleven batted first for a total of 135, to which Lieut. H. S. D. Jarrett contributed 48, obtaining 6, 5 and 4 before being caught. The fourteen made 120, Corporal Brewster R.A. contributing 29 and Corporal Shepherd of the Buffs 22 before being bowled by Mr. H. G. Rice.

The American schooner *Breeze*, Captain Collyer, arrived at Manila on the 24th November from Mariana Island. The *Breeze*, a small pleasure boat, schooner-rigged, of 10 tons only, commanded by her owner, Captain Collyer. This smart little vessel had made a voyage from Japan to Mariana Islands during which she experienced no less than three typhoons. The *Breeze* brought news that the British schooner *Buccaneer* arrived at Agana (Mariana Island) from Japan, on the 7th November.

Our article on the political situation was written before the telegram was received, announcing that a sum of nearly two millions of pounds sterling had been voted by the French Chamber of Deputies for war purposes, and that M. Ferry has stated that, unless China pays the indemnity, Formosa will be permanently occupied. It is evidently the intention of the French to adopt vigorous action in Tonquin, and to carry through the occupation of Formosa. The Chamber has given the reply to the Chinese proposal, which M. Ferry said it should give—voted a considerable war credit. Of course this vote and this statement about the permanent occupation of Formosa may be intended as a little "bluff"; but there are no substantial grounds for arriving at such a conclusion.

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the Chinese will be able to retaliate against the French. There they can cause the French as much annoyance and expense as the French can do them harm by the occupation of Formosa, or by naval operations along the coast. Probably this point is not fully appreciated in France at the present time. France cannot take possession of Formosa and quietly wait for the Chinese to come to terms. If China energetically drills her forces after foreign methods, and concentrates them in the southern provinces, she can force France to fight, and to maintain a large army in an unhealthy part of the Far East. The arrival of Royal Artillery stationed here came off at the Kowloon Range, and, after a fight, the village was blockaded.

The hill men, being of a practical and business-like turn of mind, utilised the blockade in a manner which might be a useful lesson to the French. Anyone was allowed to pass in or out, on payment, the amount demanded being \$12 for a man and \$24 for a woman.

SHOOTING COMPETITION.

This afternoon the return carbine match between a team representing the Volcanoes and a team representing the old battery of Royal Artillery stationed here came off at the Kowloon Range, and, after a fight, the village was blockaded. The hill men, being of a practical and business-like turn of mind, utilised the blockade in a manner which might be a useful lesson to the French. Anyone was allowed to pass in or out, on payment, the amount demanded being \$12 for a man and \$24 for a woman.

The Padre sent down word to the Consul that his village and himself were to be burnt on the night of the 16th (Chinese month); and, on representation, the Taotai sent the before-mentioned officials to the spot.

So far no news has been received of the result, but as the Taotai is most anxious to be good terms with the Hakka at the moment, it is more than probable that, if heads "must off," why it will be those of the converts.

November 6th.—*Lutin* steams slowly south, a long, and most respectful distance out. News is received here which offers some explanation of the difficulties, into which the *Fei-hoo* has apparently got. It appears that the Customs mail bag, which she brought from Amoy, and which the French allowed most courteously, and much to our astonishment, to be landed unopened, contained most important despatches to the Taotai. It is surmised that between the time of the departure of the *Fei-hoo* south, and her return to Amoy, that the French became aware of this fact. The puzzle is how, as with the exception of H. M. S. *Fly*'s boats, who knew nothing about despatches, their means of acquiring this knowledge were limited, if they did acquire it? Of course we are without any news as to her fate.

November 7th.—Return of the authorities from Bang Cum Sing. Result—magistrate reports the whole affair the fault of the converts. Three converts will shortly be able to test the advisability of deserting one religion for another. Sentence decapitation. The converts made a mistake; they would not allow the magistrates to enter the village for some time. Threatened to fire on them. As a matter of fact these converts are a nuisance. They embrace, or profess to do, Christianity, and consider themselves embraced by all Europe in return. We are Christians, no more Chinese authorities for us. I think the Padre is hurt that the *Fly* did not send up an armed party to protect him. Only 30 miles.

Nov. 8th.—*Villars* cruising off the Port of Manila for four hours at her. Direction good, but all about one mile short.

Nov. 9th.—Large fort Saracen's Head, jealous of the smaller one, plays at long bowls in the afternoon. *Villars* eight miles out; after two shots gave it up as hopeless.

Nov. 10th.—Two feet of water only in the middle of the entrance. Stones show at low water. Joy of contractor! Authorities pug each other on the back!

Nov. 11th.—Strong wind and tide in the night. Eleven feet in the entrance; gale of contractor! wrath of authorities. *Kuang-tung* sighted from Amoy; communicates with French and goes away.

Nov. 12th.—The Amoy Commissioner

proposed to have been on board *Kuang-tung*.

She brought no mail; only some few private letters, chiefly for Customs. *Lutin* handed them to *Fly*. *Lutin* signalled mail on board; we looked on her as the relief of Formosa; now we don't. Not a line or hint as to chances of peace or war. Reported French disaster at Keeling from Chinese. *Fei-hoo* was seized because she did not anchor alongside of and outside the ship itself has come to hand, but the ship is still able to steam with one boiler.

EXPLORATION ON BOARD A FRENCH MAN-OF-WAR.

The French corvette *Éclaireur*, which arrived here from Taiwanfu this morning, brought the news of a sad catastrophe which occurred on board the *Rigault de Genouilly*. On the 22nd instant, or thereabout, while this vessel was steaming about near the port of Keeling, one of her boilers exploded and killed twelve or thirteen men and injured four or five others. No details as to the extent of the damage done to the ship itself has come to hand, but the ship is still able to steam with one boiler.

FORMOSA.

(From our Correspondent.)

Takow, Nov. 12th.

Nov. 2nd.—*Fei-hoo* left about 3 o'clock this morning, and, as we subsequently heard, arrived there at about dusk and steamed into her anchorage without communicating with the French, in spite of signals and a gun fired. Three Frenchmen at Amoy—two on one boat, one on another—had been lost on the year. There is considerable divergence of opinion as to the cause of the accident, and especially when that being dangerous road that being dangerous are not to be surpassed by any in the colony.

The proposed tramway scheme for Malibourne provides for the laying down of about 50 miles of tramway, out of which 34 miles will be constructed on the cable system, and the balance on horse-tramways.

The total expenditure is estimated at \$297,000. In this connection it is interesting to note, from a New South Wales Parliamentary return, that the Sydney tramways show an annual loss of nearly \$20,000. It is stated three lines last year netted \$10,000. It is stated three lines last year netted \$13,933, so that the sum of \$29,511 has been lost on the year. There is considerable divergence of opinion as to the returns which the Melbourne system will give for an outlay of nearly \$21,000,000.

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